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Implementation of recommendations on the six mandated areas of the Forum and on the Millennium Development Goals

Information received from the United Nations system and other intergovernmental organizations

Department of Economic and Social Affairs

Summary

The present document contains information provided by the following four Divisions of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs: the Division for the Advancement of Women; the Division for Public Administration and Development Management; the Division for Sustainable Development; and the Statistics Division.

The secretariat of the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, which is part of the Division for Social Policy and Development, will provide its report to the Forum in a separate document.

* E/C.19/2007/1.

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I. Division for the Advancement of Women

1. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which is supported by the Division for the Advancement of Women as substantive secretariat, continues to review and address the situation of indigenous women in reporting States parties. During its thirty-fourth (16 January to 3 February 2006), thirty-fifth (15 May to 2 June 2006) and thirty-sixth (7 to 25 August 2006) sessions, the Committee raised the issue of indigenous women in the constructive dialogue and in the concluding comments of those States parties that had indigenous peoples among their population, namely Australia, China, Guatemala, Mexico, the Philippines and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).[1]

2. In the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women (A/61/122/Add.1), which the Division prepared and presented to the General Assembly at its sixty-first session, the issue of violence against indigenous women is discussed. The International Indigenous Women's Forum, associated with MADRE, an international human rights organization focusing on women's rights, was an active member of the task force set up by the Division as part of the preparation of the study.

3. In October 2006, the Chief of the Women's Rights Section of the Division for the Advancement of Women participated in a panel discussion on violence against indigenous women. The discussion was organized by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum. The report, entitled "Mairin Iwanka Raya, indigenous women stand against violence", was issued as a companion piece to the in-depth study of the Secretary-General on all forms of violence against women.

4. During the fiftieth session of the Commission of the Status of Women, the panel discussion to commemorate International Women's Day, on 8 March 2006, included Noeli Pocaterra, President of the Permanent Commission of Indigenous Peoples National Assembly of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. Several side events dealing with indigenous women's issues were held during the session, including one event on violence against indigenous women, sponsored jointly by the secretariat of the Permanent Forum, MADRE and the International Indigenous Women's Forum.

5. The Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women, Ambassador Carmen Maria Gallardo, addressed the Permanent Forum at its fifth session in May 2006.

6. The Division for the Advancement of Women continues to participate in and contribute to the work of the Task Force on Indigenous Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the Intradepartmental Task Force on Indigenous Issues of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs. As part of the intra-departmental task force, the Division prepared a plan for the implementation of the second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, which was included in the plan of action for the Decade of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

[1] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/61/38).

II. Division for Public Administration and Development Management

International Conference on Engaging Communities

7. The International Conference on Engaging Communities, which was sponsored jointly by the Division for Public Administration and Development Management of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the state government of Queensland and held in Brisbane, Australia from 14 to 17 August 2005, attracted 3,000 participants from 44 countries. The Division collaborated with the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in a workshop entitled "Engaging the marginalized — partnership between indigenous people, Governments and civil society". The highlight of the conference was the Brisbane Declaration, which, among other provisions, stipulated the following:

> We, the representatives of countries and communities, including indigenous peoples, international institutions, national, state and local governments, academic institutions, and business and civil society organizations from across the world, ... recognize that inclusive engagement requires that indigenous peoples and the poor and marginalized are adequately resourced to participate meaningfully in the broader community and that they have a stake in the outcome and benefit equitably as a result of being involved.

The Brisbane Declaration was submitted to the Secretary-General by the Prime Minister of Australia for follow-up at the global level.

Project for institutional capacity-building of indigenous local governments in Ecuador

8. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management has been assisting the Division for Social Policy and Development in developing a proposal for a technical cooperation project for institutional capacity-building for local governments, managed by the indigenous peoples of Ecuador. The proposal has been formulated by a team of experts from both Divisions, approved by the Government of Ecuador and submitted for consideration by several donor Governments. The proposed project aims at empowering communities in municipalities with indigenous authorities by means of institutional capacity-building in planning and budgeting. By ensuring the participation and meaningful involvement of indigenous and non-indigenous communities, planning and budgeting can be conducted in an open and inclusive manner.

Contribution to the development of monitoring indicators for the socio-economic development of indigenous people

9. The Division for Public Administration and Development Management provided input during the preparation of monitoring indicators of socio-economic governance of indigenous people.

10. In cooperation with the Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Bangladesh, the Division participated in an expert team mission in November 2006 that conducted a series of systematic consultations with relevant stakeholders in the Chittagong Hill Tracts of Bangladesh. The consultations focused on governance issues pertaining to the indigenous or tribal groups, the

non-implementation of the 10-year-old peace accord and the lack of governmental structures to deal effectively with unresolved land and territorial disputes in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. On the basis of the consultations, the Department of Economic and Social Affairs helped develop a confidence-building strategy for the Chittagong Hill Tracts through which UNDP will work with stakeholders. Strategic interventions are envisioned at the following levels:

(a) National level: to assist in developing a high-level consensus on policy issues, such as those elements pertaining to sustainable peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts. To that end, the land question, security sector issues, the status of recent settlers and internally displaced people, the revitalization of the Land Commission and a workable arrangement for constituting regional and district councils in the Chittagong Hill Tracts will be examined.

(b) Regional and district levels in the Chittagong Hill Tracts: to enhance the capacities of public administration and of the new institutions mandated by the Chittagong Hill Tracts for service delivery, land administration and the provision of the rule of law. The main operational issues are development coordination, the management of conflicts, and creating the skills and conditions for joint, collaborative development planning.

(c) Local level: to strengthen informal and traditional mechanisms for the management of conflicts and to foster better intercommunity relations in order to build bridges across ethnically divided communities.

11. It is hoped that the project, which is due to be launched in the first half of 2007, will encourage key national actors to recognize the significance of implementing the peace accord and creating conditions for sustainable peace in the Chittagong Hill Tracts.

III. Division for Sustainable Development

12. Broad public participation in implementation is a prerequisite for sustainable development. Indigenous people are one of the nine major groups recognized by Agenda 21 as essential partners in the advancement of sustainable development.

13. Since the creation of the Commission on Sustainable Development in 1992, the major groups have been given an important role to play as partners in sustainable development. Commission meetings have provided an innovative forum for the participation of non-governmental actors with the overall purpose of informing the Commission in its decision-making processes.

14. Following the 2002 World Summit on Sustainable Development, a number of partnerships for sustainable development were created to work with and/or for indigenous communities at the local, regional and global levels to address issues related to water, agricultural heritage, land, and biotrade development.

15. In preparation for the fifteenth session of the Commission (30 April-11 May 2007) and its Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting (26 February-2 March 2007), which will build on the previous session of the Commission and focus on policy options and possible actions to expedite the implementation of Agenda 21 and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation in relation to energy for sustainable

development, industrial development, air pollution/atmosphere, and climate change, indigenous peoples' organizations have been invited to contribute as follows:

- To submit input to the reports of the Secretary-General
- To provide examples of case studies to be included in the Commission matrix and the sustainable development case studies database
- To prepare a paper on priorities for action by coordinating with a steering group of indigenous organizations led by Tebtebba — Indigenous Peoples' International Centre for Policy Research and Education, and the Indigenous Environmental Network (see also www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/mg_op); and to present the written input of the main indigenous groups to the Commission. The paper will outline policy recommendations by the groups related to the thematic cluster (available in all United Nations official languages at: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/documents/docs_csd15.htm)
- To participate in the activities of the fifteenth session of the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting, including:

  Two dedicated multi-stakeholder dialogue sessions

  A ministerial dialogue session with major groups

  Thematic and regional discussions, including those on small island developing States ("SIDS Day"), the Partnerships Fair and the Learning Centre

  Closing remarks at the end of each meeting.

16. The Chair's summary of the fourteenth session of the Commission[2] includes seven references to indigenous people (paras. 27, 224, 225, 230, 231, 236 and 238).

17. The Division for Sustainable Development makes limited funding available to indigenous people and other participants of major groups to enable their participation in Commission meetings. Two representatives nominated by the indigenous people's sector were funded to participate in the fourteenth session, and three more are being funded to participate in the fifteenth session and the Intergovernmental Preparatory Meeting in 2007.

18. In addition, the Division recently launched new web pages dedicated to each major group. The web page for indigenous people can be found at: www.un.org/esa/sustdev/mgroups/about_mgroups/amg_indigenous_main.htm.

Commission partnerships working with and/or for indigenous communities

19. The following is a summary of all registered partnerships that have specifically indicated a relationship or activities with or for indigenous communities.

Recovery of the circuit of Four Lakes

20. Arising from a pressing environmental need, this partnership was founded by the indigenous non-governmental organization Yachay Wasi (based in New York City and in Cuzco, Peru) to assess and stop the growing chemical contamination of

[2] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2006, Supplement No. 9* (E/2006/29).

four Andean mountain lakes, one of them affecting the village of Acopia in Peru, which is the birthplace of Luis Delgado Hurtado, co-founder and president of Yachay Wasi, who now resides in Cuzco.

- The inhabitants of these indigenous villages and many other smaller indigenous communities rely on the waters of those lakes. The contamination of the lakes has been a growing problem over the past few years.
- The project is being implemented in a rural area of the Peruvian Andes by Yachay Wasi. It is in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, allowing contact on an international level.
- The non-governmental organization attracted the interest of a major partner: Rotary International in Australia. The project leader, also the president of the organization, resides in Cuzco and speaks Quechua, being himself of Inca heritage; indeed he is a native of one of the affected villages, in which he keeps a family home. Over the past 10 years, he has demonstrated his concern for his people by carrying out the smaller projects of the organization in his village and representing his people at United Nations meetings. He has been able, after consultations, to obtain prior and informed consent from project beneficiaries, who are also indigenous and include local authorities. The project will be implemented mostly by local indigenous workers. Projects of this type could be duplicated in other areas of the world where indigenous peoples reside.

Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1305.html and www.yachaywasi-ngo.org/lakesproject.htm.

Globally important ingenious agricultural heritage systems

21. The overall goal of the project is to identify and safeguard globally important ingenious agricultural heritage systems and their associated landscapes, agricultural biodiversity and knowledge systems through catalysing and establishing a long-term programme to support such systems and enhance global, national and local benefits derived from their dynamic conservation, sustainable management and enhanced viability.

- Attention to local knowledge systems is opportune in view of the increasing recognition of the role of indigenous peoples and of the effective involvement of local and indigenous communities in decision-making processes, in accordance with article 8 (j) of the Convention on Biological Diversity.
- Both natural heritage and cultural heritage have been the subject of much attention in recent decades through the UNESCO Man and Biosphere programme and its designation of, and support to, biosphere reserves and the designation of outstanding sites and protected areas under the World Heritage Convention. However, this initiative aims to increase recognition of the combined cultural and natural agricultural heritage that has been maintained in outstanding agricultural systems, including the landscape, in situ conservation of species, knowledge and management systems and the often unique and renowned produce of such systems.

For more information, see http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/1153.html and www.fao.org/ag/agl/agll/giahs.

Land Alliances for National Development

22. Land Alliances for National Development (LAND partnerships) constitute a global initiative to alleviate rural poverty by strengthening country-level collaboration among State, civil society, bilateral and international stakeholders. Collaboration is needed to (a) achieve participatory dialogue; (b) improve policy formulation; (c) establish joint action to secure resource tenure for households with user rights; and (d) increase access to land by the landless and near-landless.

23. The International Land Coalition (Italy) serves as the coordination mechanism of the partnership, and works to:

- Strengthen the capacity of community-based organizations to be effective partners inside a LAND partnership
- Support the logistic requirements for community participation in dialogue and in land policy formulation
- Ensure that LAND partnerships benefit from and take into consideration lessons learned and the implications of changes for traditional organizations, pastoralists/herders, women and special populations, including indigenous peoples
- Support government land institutions in partnership with target communities
- Increase secure access to land by the landless and near-landless, including women, indigenous peoples and marginalized groups.

24. The number of members of the Coalition has grown to include a much wider set of civil society partners, including organizations of farmers, women, landless peoples, indigenous peoples, non-governmental organizations and other community-based organizations in over 35 countries.

25. One example of programme activity directly involving an indigenous community is the initiative to promote natural resources management by indigenous communities in the Ngovayang Forest in Cameroon. Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/36.html.

Great Apes Survival Project

26. The main objective of the project is to avert the threat of imminent or medium-term extinction faced by the four main kinds of great apes (bonobos, chimpanzees, gorillas and orang-utans). It identifies and supports income-generating initiatives for the benefit of communities living in and around great ape habitats and protected areas, with due consideration for indigenous communities, and works to ensure, where it becomes imperative to resettle indigenous people in conformity with United Nations guidelines, that compensation is paid with international support. Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/43.html and www.unep.org/grasp/.

Andean Biotrade programme

27. The general objectives of the Andean Biotrade programme are:

- To promote trade and investment in biological resources in the Andean region with the aim of supporting the objectives of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy and contribute to sustainable development in the region
- To support the development of biotrade in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) through regional actions that complement the national Biotrade programmes.

28. The programme will therefore assist in the implementation of the Andean Biodiversity Strategy, and the sustainable use of biodiversity will become a development priority for the Andean Governments, the private sector, local and indigenous communities and other relevant stakeholders.

29. The partnership contributes to poverty alleviation, fosters local and national development, and ensures mechanisms of benefit-sharing by generating tangible economic, social and environmental benefits for people living in biodiversity-rich areas. It also strengthens the role of local actors such as non-governmental organizations, local and indigenous communities, academia, and the private sector. Further information is available from http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/251.html, www.biotrade.org, www.caf.com and www.comunidadandina.org.

New Ventures Biodiversity Investor Forum for the Andean and Amazonian region

30. The Andean Development Corporation, the World Resources Institute and the Biotrade initiative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development have entered into a partnership to support existing and start-up small- and medium-sized biobusinesses from the Andean and Amazonian regions, by granting them access to credit and venture capital. The partnership has the objective of heightening the priority of biobusiness development in the agendas of government, the private sector, local and indigenous communities, donors and other relevant stakeholders. Further information is available at http://webapps01.un.org/dsd/partnerships/public/partnerships/83.html, www.biotrade.org, www.new-ventures.org and www.caf.com.

IV. Statistics Division

Data collection

31. The Statistics Division collects data on national ethnic groups, languages and religions through a regular demographic and social statistics collection system. The main sources of data are national population censuses. As countries conduct population censuses throughout the 2010 census decade (2005-2014), the Division will collect more data on national ethnic groups, languages and religions.

Data dissemination

32. The Division maintains a website (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/default.htm) dedicated to ethnocultural characteristics. It provides a link to the website of the secretariat of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, as well as to reports and data relevant to indigenous people.

33. Data on national ethnic groups, languages and religions of individual countries are disseminated through a dedicated website (http://unstats.un.org /unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/popchar2.htm) and will be updated regularly to incorporate new data received from countries.

Revision of principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses

34. Guidelines for data collection on indigenous peoples have been drafted as part of the second revision of the principles and recommendations for population and housing censuses. The draft recommendations will be presented to the Statistical Commission for approval at its thirty-eighth session (27 February-1 March 2007). The final adopted principles and recommendations will be disseminated worldwide. A draft of the revised version can be viewed at: http://unstats.un.org/unsd/ demographic/sources/census/default.aspx.

Technical report

35. A technical report on national ethnic groups, languages and religions, containing an analysis of trends in data collection and dissemination as well as country practices covering the years from 1946 to 2004, with a focus on the 2000 census round (1995-2004), has been prepared and is posted on the website of the Division (http://unstats.un.org/unsd/demographic/sconcerns/popchar/Ethnicitypaper.pdf). The report includes a special section on enumeration of indigenous peoples.